

*Lab C*  
*B cont'*  
2. (Amended) The base particles according to claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of the water-soluble polymer to the inhibitor for forming a coating film in a base particle constituting the base particles, that is water-soluble polymer/inhibitor for forming a coating film, is from 0.1 to 100.

7. (Amended) Base particles for supporting a surfactant, obtainable by spray-drying a slurry comprising at least a water-soluble polymer (A) and an alkali metal halide, wherein the surfactant is contained in an amount of from 0 to 3% by weight of the base particles, and wherein a weight ratio of the water-soluble polymer to the alkali metal halide in a base particle constituting the base particles, that is water-soluble polymer/alkali metal halide, is from 0.1 to 100.

*B<sup>2</sup>*  
*Lab C*  
8. (Amended) A process for preparing base particles for supporting a surfactant, the base particles containing the surfactant in an amount of from 0 to 3% by weight, comprising the step of spray-drying a slurry comprising a water-soluble polymer (A), an inhibitor for forming a coating film (B) and a water-soluble salt (C) other than the inhibitor for forming a coating film, wherein a dissolution ratio of Component (B) in the slurry is at a level sufficient to inhibit formation of a coating film on the surface of the resulting base particles.

B2  
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9. (Twice Amended) Detergent particles having an average particle size of from 150 to 750  $\mu\text{m}$  and a bulk density of 500g/L or more, wherein 1 to 100 parts by weight of a surfactant is supported in 100 parts by weight of base particles for supporting the surfactant, obtainable by spray-drying a slurry comprising a water-soluble polymer (A), an inhibitor for forming a coating film (B) and a water-soluble salt (C) other than the inhibitor for forming a coating film, wherein the surfactant is contained in an amount of from 0 to 10% by weight of the base particles.

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11. (Twice Amended) A detergent composition comprising the detergent particles of claim 9 or 10.

Please add the following claims:

B4  
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--12. The base particles according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the inhibitor (B) is selected from the group consisting of halides of alkali metals and halides of alkali earth metals.

13. The detergent particles according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the inhibitor (B) is selected from the group consisting of halides of alkali metals and halides of alkali earth metals.--